

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 HA-05 /100 W
-----128517 021157Z /45

R 020745Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7207
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 873

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER'S VISIT TO WINDHOEK

1. AN OFFICER OF THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY VISITED WINDHOEK
THE WEEK OF APRIL 23, AND ON HIS RETURN BRIEFED EMBOFF ON
HIS TRIP. ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRALIAN, DEMOCRATIC
TURNHALLE ALLIANCE LEADERS, INCLUDING DIRK MUDGE, BELIEVE
THAT SWAPO WILL NOT ACCEPT THE WESTERN PLAN. MUDGE REPORTEDLY
TOLD THE AUSTRALIAN HE BELIEVES THE VOTER TURNOUT IN A CONTEST
WITHOUT SWAPO WOULD BE BETWEEN 30 AND 40 PERCENT. IF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL DOES NOT ENDORSE THE WESTERN PLAN, MUDGE
REPORTEDLY SAID, HE WOULD ASK THE CONTACT GROUP GOVERNMENTS TO
SEND OBSERVERS, AND IF THEY REFUSE HE WOULD INVITE "LEADING
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PERSONALITIES" FROM AROUND THE WORLD AS "INDEPENDENT" OBSERVERS.

2. THE AUSTRALIAN OFFICER SAID SWAPO POLITICAL
ACTIVITIES HAVE COME TO A VIRTUAL STANDSTILL IN
THE TERRITORY AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT DETENTIONS.
THE NAMIBIAN NATIONAL FRONT IS BUSY TRYING TO
ORGANIZE A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN EFFORT, BUT IS STILL

HAMPERED BY LACK OF FUNDS. IT HAS JUST PUBLISHED ITS NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION, WHICH INCLUDES MANY OF THE IDEAS OF THE FEDERAL PARTY. THE AUSTRALIAN WAS TOLD BY SEVERAL WINDHOEK SOURCES THAT SWANU, THE LARGEST NNF MEMBER GROUP, IS THE VICTIM OF SERIOUS INTIMIDATION BY ARMED MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL UNITED DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION (NUDO, THE HERERO GROUP IN DTA), WHICH IS MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR SWANU TO OPERATE. ONE OF SWANU'S MAJOR EFFORTS AT PRESENT, ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRALIAN, IS OVERSEAS, WHERE SWANU REPRESENTATIVES ARE TRYING TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF SWAPO MEMBERS DISILLUSIONED WITH NUJOMA'S LEADERSHIP. SWANU, HE SAID, WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF ANDREAS SHIPANGA.

3. THE AUSTRALIAN OFFICER CONFIRMED OTHER REPORTS THAT MANY CHURCH LEADERS, INCLUDING LUTHERAN, ANGLICAN, AND CATHOLICS ARE BECOMING DISENCHANTED WITH SWAPO'S HARD LINE, AND INCLINING FAVORABLY TO THE NNF. THE THREE CHURCHES, HE SAID, ARE CONSIDERING SETTING UP THEIR OWN NEWSPAPER TO COUNTER THE DTA'S RECENT TAKEOVER OF WINDHOEK'S TWO INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS. NELSON

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